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The
George Washington University
Movement

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

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WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF A LEADING STATE UNIVERSITY
THINKS OF THE PLAN OF ESTABLISHING A
GREAT UNIVERSITY FOR GRADUATE WORK
AT THE CAPITAL OF THE NATION

WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF A STATE UNIVERSITY THINKS ABOUT A GREAT UNIVERSITY FOR GRADUATE WORK AT THE CAPITAL OF THE NATION

The greatest unused educational opportunity in the field of Higher Education in the United States is the equipment and endowment, in an adequate manner, of a great University for Graduate Work in the City of Washington.

Such a University, located in the Federal Capital, could do many things for American higher education which no institution at any other location could possibly accomplish.

Washington is a city that is destined more and more to attract the attention of all parts of the country alike. From Washington as a center, it will be easier, through the channels of the press and in other ways, to reach the attention of every part of the country with any contribution of Science, however slight, which promises to be of value. The great scientific departments of the national government have already cut deep channels in every direction from Washington as a center, along which scientific information may flow most easily to every part of this great country, and through which scientific influence may be most easily exerted to one and all points.

It is, of course, a matter of importance that the great scientific collections growing up in the city of Washington, supported by the national government, would form a resource for such an institution which cannot be duplicated for millions upon millions of dollars in any other locality of the country.

But more important than this, for the development of such a center of learning as is here in mind, is the concentration of a large number of scientific men of the best caliber in this capital city of the Republic.

Owing to these circumstances a given effort will accomplish far more in the City of Washington than in any other city in the United States. A given amount of money will accomplish far larger results for the nation as a whole, in the field of Applied Sciences, especially for the advancement of American Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures.

While this is true of each and every department that might properly fall within the scope of a great University at the Capital of the Nation, it is especially true of a great *School of Politics and Diplomacy*. Washington is the natural place for such a center of scientific investigation. There is the place where men interested in this department of our racial life most congregate. There is the only center of diplomatic influence and power in the country. There are the ablest statesmen. There are the greatest courts.

There also is the center from which the most important influences may be most immediately exerted upon politicians and statesmen alike and raise the level of their thinking and their action.

A great school of this kind would prepare men for the public service as at present no men are prepared in the United States. The existence of such a school and the preparation which its graduates would have, would call the attention of the Federal Administration to the fact that it could obtain competent men for any administrative position within its gift, and the supply of men with such training would create a demand for their services.

As it is now, men have oftentimes been selected for most important posts from purely political considerations, simply because there were no men with the special and scientific training which would qualify them for broad activity for such work; and *where all alike are equally untrained, political affiliation offers a convenient basis of choice*. But if it were possible to obtain trained men, the tendency—already developing—would grow with increased rapidity to select such men in preference to those who have no such training.

Another great advantage of such a school as this, located in the Capital, would be its powerful influence on Congress as a whole in the direction of *scientific treatment of all political and economic questions*. Such a school, with a Faculty consisting of able experts in all the different lines of governmental policy and administration, would inevitably exert an immediate and helpful influence upon the country and upon the attitude of our Congressmen and our government as a whole.

This is just now the strategic moment, owing to the fact that a law has been passed reorganizing, re-forming and, in many respects, putting upon a sounder basis, the consular service of the United States. *The present law will inevitably work in the direction of providing a trained consular service; but to carry this idea out to an adequate and desirable extent it will be*



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necessary to have some center where these men may be properly trained. At present no such center exists in this country. In such a School of Politics and Diplomacy, located in Washington, would be found the ideal place to acquire this particular training.

In the City of Washington there already exists an institution, The George Washington University, with a charter board enough to cover the entire scope of university work, and into the scheme of which such a Department of Politics and Diplomacy, as is herein suggested, would fit most easily.

The remarkable recent development in the work and plans of The George Washington University show that it is well adapted to develop into a university that will do a work of national importance, provided, only, that it now receives adequate financial support from the people of this Republic.

It has taken a long time for a really national consciousness to develop in this country. It is upon the basis of such a national consciousness that our higher civilization in every department must ultimately be built. We have already attained unto it in certain fields. It is coming with marvelous rapidity in the field of Education.

Toward the development of this national consciousness in Education—which will mean untold benefits to the people of the United States—no one thing could contribute so powerfully, so directly, so immediately, as a great University at the Federal Capital, crowning, supplementing, complementing, leading, supporting and sustaining, in countless directions, that great system of Higher Education which, thanks to private effort and public activity, is becoming one of the glories of the American people.

EDMUND J. JAMES.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
University of Illinois.

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